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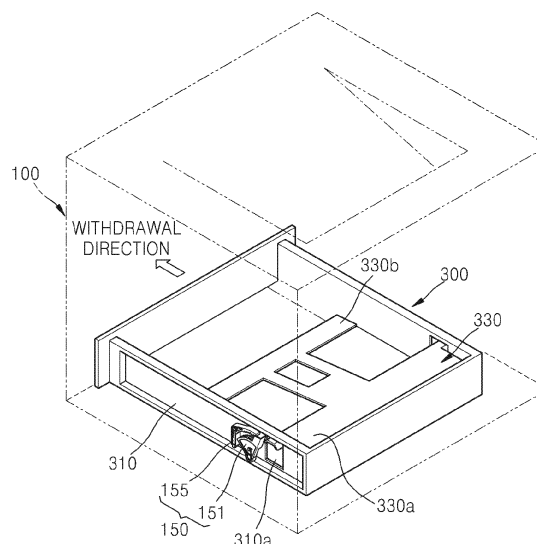
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(54) **Image forming apparatus**

(57) An image forming apparatus includes a main body (100) including a printing unit (110) for printing an image on a recording medium (P) and a pickup roller (131) for picking up the recording medium, a paper feeding device (300), which includes an elevatable plate (330) on which recording media are stackable and a pressure member (331) for elastically pressing the plate towards

the pickup roller and is removably inserted into the main body, and a variable guide unit (150), which is supported by the main body, is fixed in a slope state to lower the plate in a direction against the pickup roller when the paper feeding device is withdrawn from the main body, and moves to maintain a contact state with the plate due to a rising state of the plate in a state in which the paper feeding device is inserted into the main body.

FIG. 2





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 12 18 2392

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	US 2007/200284 A1 (TAKAHASHI YOSHIKAZU [JP]) 30 August 2007 (2007-08-30) * paragraph [0052]; figure 2 * -----	1-10	INV. B65H1/12 G03G15/00 B41J13/10
A	EP 0 575 996 A1 (CANON KK [JP]) 29 December 1993 (1993-12-29) * column 6, line 30 - column 7, line 44; figures 7-10 * -----	1-10	
A	US 6 106 178 A (CHIU ANDREW SHUN PUI [HK]) 22 August 2000 (2000-08-22) * column 4, lines 28-47 * -----	1-10	
A	GB 2 147 278 A (XEROX CORP) 9 May 1985 (1985-05-09) * page 2, line 43 - line 130; figure 2 * -----	1-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65H G03G B41J
1 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 29 April 2013	Examiner Urbaniec, Tomasz
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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Application Number

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-10

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10

An image forming apparatus comprising a paper feeding device, which comprises an elevatable plate on which recording media are stackable and a pressure member for elastically pressing the plate towards a pickup roller, and is insertable into the main body of the apparatus; and a variable guide unit, which is supported by the main body, is fixed in a slope state so as to lower the plate in a direction away from the pickup roller when the paper feeding device is being withdrawn from the main body, and moves to maintain a contact state with the plate when the paper feeding device is inserted into the main body.

2. claim: 11

A printing apparatus having a variable guide unit rotatably installed in a main body, including a paper feeding device with a pickup roller and an elevatable plate, the variable guide unit comprising: a variable guide member comprising a slope unit and a fixing member supported by the main body, for fixing the variable guide member by coupling with the variable guide member when the paper feeding device is withdrawn from the main body and to move to a release position for releasing the variable guide member by decoupling from the variable guide member when the paper feeding device is inserted into the main body.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 12 18 2392

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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29-04-2013

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